Industrial incentive package for Punjab

1558. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are actively considering to provide industrial incentive package for Punjab State;

(b) whether any specific proposals have been received from the Punjab State Government in this regard; and

(c) what are the relevant details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The proposal received from the State Government of Punjab for extending fiscal incentives for promotion of industries was examined and was not found feasible as such incentives are extended only to industrially backward States falling under the Special Category which have certain disadvantages in terms of geographical isolation for infrastructure development and overall economic backwardness.

Proposals have been received from the State Government of Punjab for extending financial assistance for upgradation of industrial infrastructure for locations such as Ludhiana, Batala and Mandi Govindgarh. The proposal relating to textile cluster, Ludhiana has been approved.

Finding new areas and strains for coffee cultivation

1559. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coffee Board has not been able to expand coffee growing areas in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the Coffee Board being unable to identify new areas and new strains of coffee suitable for Indian soils and climate;

(c) whether Government would identify new areas for coffee growing in the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that traditional coffee growers do not want new growers to come into the field; and

(e) the steps proposed to find new areas and new strains for coffee cultivation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E V K S ELANGOVAN) (a) No, Sir The Coffee Board has been striving to expand coffee growing areas and its production in the country

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes, Sir. To enhance coffee expansion and production in the North Eastern Region and non-traditional areas *viz* Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, the Board is implementing special area programme for the development of coffee in these areas

(d) No such instances has come to the notice of the Government of India/Coffee Board

(e) The Coffee Board is implementing Special Area Programme to expand coffee cultivation in new areas in all the seven states in North Eastern Region, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa Regarding production of new strains to improve production, the Board through its premier research institute *viz* Central Coffee Research Institute has been continuously striving to develop improved plant materials in terms of better production, quality as also resistance to pest and disease over the past 6-7 decades The Board has a well equipped bio technology lab in Mysore, Karnataka, for developing improved plant strains through modern approaches like genetic engineering, marker breeding techniques etc

Import of edible oil

†1560 SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the details of import of edible oil, especially palm oil from abroad during the last five years,

(b) whether any concession has been granted in customs duty for the import of the said edible oil,

(c) if so, the logic of granting the said special concession

(d) whether it is a fact that the imported palm oil has destroyed the indigenous edible oil industry and

(e) if so, the details thereof?